



Portland Head Lights

Portland Head Sail and Power Squadron/District 19

A Unit of the United States Power Squadrons

March 2008

Squadron Officers 2008-2009

Commander

Cdr Frederick H. Rice, AP
207-767-1637
ricenhowe@maine.rr.com

Executive Officer

Lt/C Randy Mraz, AP
207-865-4481
rrmraz@suscom-maine.net

Educational Officer

Lt/C Moby B. Richard, JN
207-839-4472
moby@mobyware.com

Administrative Officer

Lt/C Alan D. Newton, S
207-894-2792
medfordal@aol.com

Secretary

Lt/C Georgia Howe
207-767-1637
ricenhowe@maine.rr.com

Treasurer

Lt/C Ethel T. Price, AP
207-797-6824
eprice2410@aol.com

Asst. Educational Officer

1st/Lt Charles H. Crockett, JN
207-839-3543
ccrocket@maine.rr.com

Editor: Lt Mary B. Pickard
mpick@maine.rr.com

Commander's Message

Cdr Fred Rice, AP

Two things happened in the last week or so, spring arrived and Portland received enough new snow to put us over the 100-inch mark. Suffice it to say, we will have our boats in the water soon, but probably not before the observance of National Safe Boating Week May 17-23, 2008. That is our chance to promote the many aspects of boating safety and tell the boating world who we are and what we do.

While spring was springing, Past Commanders Doug Scott, Art Pickard and I were meeting with Capt. Rendon at the Coast Guard Base and Phin Sprague at Portland Yacht Services to try to stir up some interest in a "Happening" on Saturday May 17th or Sunday May 18th, to draw attention to safe boating. The event is still in the early planning stages and might include:

- An open house at Portland Yacht Services.
- Tours of a Coast Guard boat or two.
- Flare firing practice and collection of old flares.
- An all day seminar on Safe Boating.
- Sea rescue demo with "Oscar the Dummy".
- A Coast Guard Seminar on Search and Rescue (SAR).
- Demo on wearing a life jacket (PFD).
- Helicopter sea rescue demonstration.
- Marine Radio Comms training.
- Vessel Safety Checks: for trailer boats, info and sign-ups.

And also the following booths:

- Hydrostatic Inflatable PFD Life Jackets.

- Advantages of USPS membership and class signup.
- Kayak Safety.
- Maine Island Trail Assoc.
- Advantages of DSC VHF marine radios
- Potential of boat zinc recycling.
- Operation Waterway Watch.
- Clean water and marine holding tanks.
- Eagle Island and the Peary Museum
- Etcetera.

This will be a cooperative effort between the US Coast Guard, The Portland Head Sail & Power Squadron, the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, Portland Yacht Services, and as many other organizations that wish to participate. The obvious problem is that time is short. We should have started planning this event six months ago, but with enough volunteer help we should be able to pull off some of the above events and make a good showing. At the very least, it should provide good experience on how to do it better next year.

You will get more information as the plans take shape. In the meantime, please reserve the dates and be thinking about ways that you could volunteer some time and energy to help make it all happen. Thanks in advance for your support.

PHSPS Burgees

Available now! - \$20

Call Doug Scott, 222-2317

Executive Department

Lt/C Randy Mraz, AP

Maine Boat Builders Show: The Portland Head booth at the Maine Boat Builders Show was manned by great group of members. Moby Richard, Robert Pawle, Al Newton, Jeanette Newton, KB Makoui, Nila Makoui, Fred Rice, Randy Mraz, Mary Mraz, William Calvert, Nancy Calvert, and Erick Weiss made up the crew. We had quite a few members of other squadrons stop by and even some from the Canadian Power Squadrons said hello. It is nice to chat with other members and find out about things going on in their districts. Many complimented us on the appearance of the display and on the new photos. Fred did a great job with the pictures and getting the schedule of classes printed up. Attendance was better than last year and I think everyone enjoyed the exhibits and visiting with the vendors. Thanks to all who helped us maintain our presence there.

VEs and VSCs: Vessel Examiners are needed to perform vessel safety checks. Training is available. Call either Bill Maloy (878-5653) or Doug Scott (222-2317) for information.

Educational Department

Lt/C Moby Richard, JN

Well, I've been on the job one day and I already have to write a report! It will take me a while to learn about the responsibilities of this position, but I do have a couple of goals I would like to share with the squadron and hopefully enlist your help.

First, I would like to thank the current group of instructors. I personally have benefited from them sharing their knowledge through the courses they have taught. The service they provide is priceless and the lessons they teach are

helping to make the water a safer place. I also know that teaching it is a big commitment, and I think we need to help them by increasing the number of instructors in our squadron.

Think about how much you have benefited by the education you've received through the USPS courses you have taken. I am now asking if you would be willing to contribute back to the boating community by teaching some boating courses. If you are interested, please contact me at moby@portlandhead.org and I will work with you to match you up with a class. I have also ordered some Instructor Development manuals that should help improve your teaching skills. Don't forget that a side benefit to teaching is that you refresh your knowledge of the course, especially if it has been a while since you have taken it.

Another goal I have is common to the rest of the squadron. It is working to improve our financial performance by making sure our prices are in line with our students' (customers') expectations and controlling our costs to make sure the squadron benefits, too.

I know we have had several members come up through some of the basic courses and are looking for offerings in the advanced or elective courses. Once I get a good handle on what we have for teacher resources, I will conduct a poll to determine our members' desires for future course.

Spring is (almost!) here! Safe Boating!



Upcoming Courses

Boating

Starts 29 April 2008; 7 weeks; \$45
Tuesday evenings 7:00-9:00 PM
Gorham High School
Morrill St., Gorham
Contact: Doug Scott (207-222-2317)

(Please notify friends, acquaintances or family members who may be interested in taking the USPS Boating Course.)

Skipper Saver

Coming this summer.
Call Fred Rice (767-1637) for more information.

Administrative Department

Lt/C Alan Newton, S

Watch for announcement of details of the upcoming PHSPS April 19th luncheon meeting at the Royal River Grillhouse in Yarmouth. This will be a new venue for us. Hope to see you all there!

USPS Educational Fund

Portland Head Sail and Power Squadron has received a Certificate of Merit from National Headquarters for achieving 100% membership participation in support of the USPS Educational Fund. The purpose of the fund is to promote the development of and the furtherance of educational programs, techniques, and courses in boating, seamanship, navigation, engine maintenance, marine electronic equipment, sailing, weather, boating safety, and other marine activities, and achievement of the Power Squadron's educational goals. This is the third certificate that PHSPS has earned.

What Ifs?

(From Reed's Nautical Companion)

Wise mariners engage in a lot of “what if?” thinking. What if that overweight crewmember falls overboard? What if a fuel tank springs a leak? What sort of emergencies can happen? What action will be necessary? Are the right spares and equipment carried on board? Have crewmembers been properly trained?

Man overboard is one of the most difficult situations that can confront a skipper and one that often results in tragedy. When should crewmembers be required to use safety harnesses? Are there adequate attachment points on board and are the crew properly briefed on their locations? Life jackets should always be worn (especially by children) when there is the slightest danger. The State of Maine requires children 10 years of age and under to wear a Type I, II, or III Personal Flotation Device (PFD) while on board any watercraft.

If someone goes overboard, how are you going to find him or her? Get back to them? Get them on board? And, most importantly, what if that man overboard is you?

P/C Doug Scott, AP
Safety Officer



Think or thwim!!

What Does That Mean?

Here are some answers from *Salty Dog Talk* by Bill Beavis.

Taken down a peg: This comes from the practice of admirals and officers having their own flags aboard ship. Superior officers' flags would be positioned higher on the mast than subordinates' flags. The flags would be attached to the mast by a peg. If a senior officer handed over his command to a junior, then the flag would have to be flown in a subordinate position, or taken down a peg.

Fly-by-night: A large square sail used downwind or on a reach that could be used easily and quickly. This made it very useful for sailing at night, especially for people who dealt in contraband. Since the character of these people was always in question, they became known as fly-by-night-ers.

Chew the fat: In the days when brine was added to barrels of meat, it had a hardening effect on the fat. The meat was still edible, but it took considerable chewing. To “chew the fat” has come to mean to talk endlessly.

Hijack: The harlot's call to the sailor “Hi, Jack!” acquired its more sinister meaning when, after the first embrace, she hit him with a lead-filled handbag and he was dragged off to be sold to ship in need of a crew.

Miss the boat: This expression came from the liberty boats that carried the sailors returning from shore leave out to their ships. Hence to miss the boat was to miss the only opportunity to get back to the ship.

2008 Events
Mark Your Calendars!

Apr. 11-13	D19 Spring Conference , Ellsworth
Apr. 19	Luncheon , Royal River Grillhouse
Apr. 29	Boating Class , Gorham High School
May 17-23	National Safe Boating Week
May 17 or 18	“Happening” – See Commander’s message. Help will be needed!
May 19	Executive Committee Meeting
Jun. 20-21	Cruise Planning Class Overnight , Sebasco Resort
Jul. 12	On-the Water : Transport workers/volunteers to Eagle Island. Raft-up at Potts Harbor; Lunch at Dolphin Restaurant.
Jul. 21	Executive Committee Meeting
Jul. 24	Lobster Bake , Fort Williams Park, Cape Elizabeth
Aug. 9	Cruise and Lunch , Diamond Cove
Sep. 3-7	Fall Governing Board , Detroit MI
Sep. 15	Executive Committee Meeting
Sep. 20	Commander’s Reception , Royal River Boatyard
Sep. 27	On-the Water Event , TBD
Oct. 3-5	Five-District Fall Conference , Hampton NH
Oct. 14	Downeaster to Boston to visit Boston Aquarium
Oct. 18	Luncheon , TBD
Nov. 17	Executive Committee Meeting
Dec. 6 or 13	Christmas Party

PORTLAND HEAD LIGHTS
c/o Lt Mary B. Pickard, S
15 Abigail Way
Scarborough, ME 04074

Next Event

April 19 Luncheon Meeting, Royal River Grillhouse

SEE YOU THERE!

